



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

September 24, 2010

The Honorable Mike Johanns
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Johanns:

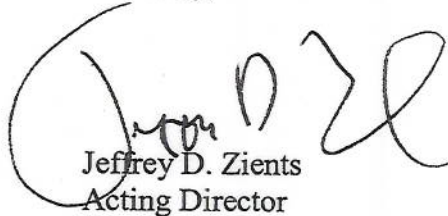
Thank you for your letter regarding the involvement of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in a review of the Keystone XL Pipeline. OMB did not conduct a formal interagency review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the pipeline project.

The Department of State is the lead agency responsible for matters relating to the Keystone XL pipeline. Executive Order No. 13337 provides authority to the Department of State relating to the issuance of permits with respect to certain energy-related facilities and land transportation crossings on the international boundaries of the United States, including referrals to U.S. Government Departments and Agencies as required under the Executive Order. In addition to its authority under Executive Order No. 13337, the Department of State is also the lead agency in preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

OMB provided a copy of your letter to the Department of State's Bureau of Economic, Energy, and Business Affairs. I believe the Department will be in a better position to address your questions regarding the status of the DEIS process.

Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey D. Zients
Acting Director